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WELSH SCENERY.

FROM

DRAWINGS

BY CAPTAIN BATTY,

OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS, F.R.S.

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NEW-YORK.

LONDON:
R. JENNINGS, POULTRY.
1825.

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J. HADDON, Printer,
Castle Street, Finsbury.

LIST OF PLATES.

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TO

MRS. ELIZABETH BRAITHWAITE,

THIS WORK

ON

WELSH SCENERY

IS GRATEFULLY DEDICATED,

BY HER AFFECTIONATE NEPHEW,

ROBERT BATTY.

CHEPSTOW,

FROM THE CLIFF OPPOSITE THE TOWN.

The name of Chepstow seems anciently to have been confounded with Striguile. Lleland, in his Itinerary, calls the founder of Tintern Abbey, "Dom. de Stroghil, alias Chepstow." Williams, in his History of Monmouthshire, says, Camden justly distinguished Striguil, or Strigil, from Chepstow. Some remains of Strigil Castle are still to be seen on a brow of the forest of Wentwood, four miles from Chepstow. It is uncertain when Chepstow Castle was founded, but most probably by the Normans, on the site of a Roman station. Tanner, in his Notitia Monastica, describes Chepstow as "An alien priory of Benedictine monks to the Abbey of Cormeil, in Normandy, as early as King Stephen's reign. It was dedicated to St. Mary, and seized by the crown, but restored in the first year of Henry IV. It was granted by King Edward IV. in the second year of his reign, to the college called Godd's House, in Cambridge: but the grant seems not to have taken effect, because here was a priory till the dissolution, when it had three religious." During the wars in the time of Charles I. Chepstow Castle was alternately in the hands of the royalist and parliamentary forces.

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Drawn by Capt. Batty — Engraved by Lewis Forden

RAGLAND CASTLE.

Published by Rodwell & Martin, New Bond Street.

RAGLAND CASTLE.

RAGLAND, or Rhagland Castle, is one of the most picturesque ruins usually visited in tours along the borders of the Wye, and through the neighbouring parts of Monmouthshire. Williams, in his history of Monmouthshire, has inserted the following account of this castle from an ancient manuscript. "It was built by Sir William Thomas and his son William, Earl of Pembroke, who was beheaded at Banbury (in the reign of Henry the Fourth). It came into the noble family of Worcester by Sir Charles Somerset's marrying Elizabeth, the granddaughter of the said William, Earl of Pembroke. It stands on a hill anciently called Twyn-y Ciros, or Cherry Hill. This castle was garrisoned from the beginning of the civil wars: it surrendered to Sir Thomas Fairfax on the 19th of August, 1646, and was immediately afterwards dismantled."

The gateway to the castle is remarkably handsome, and the towers flanking it are tolerably perfect: ivy grows in great luxuriance over many parts of its ruins, and the quantity of wood which surrounds the whole pile renders the partial glimpses of its walls particularly pleasing.

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LLANTONY ABBEY.

Published by Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown & Green & John Murray, London

LLANTONY ABBEY.

LLANTONY ABBEY is romantically situated in a narrow valley formed by the Hatterall hills, and near the banks of the Honthy rivulet. According to Tanner (Notitia Monastica), Hugh Lacey founded the priory of Llantony soon after the year 1108, and dedicated it to St. John the Baptist. The canons were of the order of St. Austin, and were about forty in number; but, owing to the rude treatment they experienced from the neighbouring country people, the greater part of them removed, first to the bishop's palace in Hereford, and, in 1136, to a place near Gloucester called also Lantony, only thirteen canons remaining in the original priory. Edward the Fourth, in the 21st year of his reign, gave leave for annexing this priory to Lantony near Gloucester. The site was granted, in the 38th year of Henry the Eighth, to Nicholas Arnold. Camden says, "Llan Nanthonddye, a priory of Blake Chanons, standeth in the vale of Ewias, then called Honddye Slade, fourteen miles from Brecknock: this Priory was fair, and stood between two great hills." Speed, in describing Monmouthshire, says, "Religious houses erected and suppressed in this shire, for greatest account, have been in Caer-lion, Chepstow, Gold-cliffe, Munmouth, and Llantony; which last stood so solitary and among hills, that the sunne was not seene to shine there, but onely betwixt the houres of one and three."

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ABERGAVENNY CASTLE

Published April 1st 1827 by Moon Boys & Graves

ABERGAVENNY CASTLE.

ABERGAVENNY is named from its situation near the banks of the Gavenni, a rivulet which flows into the Usk near this town. We are unable to trace the date when the castle of Abergavenny was built, but we find in Caradoc's History of Wales, that Sitsylht ap Dynswal, and Jefan ap Riryd, surprised and took prisoners, the whole of its garrison, in the year 1172; and that it was a second time captured, in the reign of King John, by Llewellyn. Its subsequent history shows that it was possessed by various masters till Edward Nevil became its proprietor by his marriage with the only daughter of the Earl of Worcester, who was slain in France; and not long afterwards the Nevils obtained the titles of Barons of Abergavenny. The castle is now a complete ruin, but it forms a remarkably picturesque object, standing, at the skirts of the town, on an eminence which overlooks the beautiful vale of Usk.

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Drawn by Captn Batty. Engraved by Edwd Finden

BAY.

Published May 1, 1827 by John Murray London.

HAY,

BRECKNOCKSHIRE.

THE town of Hay is charmingly situated on a rising ground close to the Wye, over which and the neighbouring fertile country it commands many pleasing prospects. The Wye at this part marks the limits of the principality and of the contiguous county of Hereford. It seems probable that it was a Roman station. Grose, in his Antiquities, mentions some architectural remains which seem to confirm this; and Speed says, that in digging new foundations many Roman coins were found: indeed, the form of the hill on which the town stands is such as is usually marked out by Roman camps. The ancient walls of the town were levelled in the rebellion of Owen Glandwrdwy, its inhabitants dispersed, and the houses burnt. Since that period Hay has been gradually recovering its former importance.

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Drawn by Captn Batty

Engraved by Edwd Finden

PONTE GIE AT [illegible]

[illegible] by J. H. Murray, [illegible]

BRIDGE AT RAHYADERGWY.

THE town of Rahyadr, or Rahyader-gwy, derives its name from its situation contiguous to the Wye, at a part where its stream is broken into a succession of picturesque little cataracts by the rough rocky bed over which it rolls, and the huge masses of stone which impede its course. Formerly these little cataracts were more striking than at present, the channel for the river having been widened in the year 1780, when the bridge was built. Contiguous to the town we may still trace the foundations of a castle which was built about the year 1178, by Rhys ap Gruffyd, to check the incursions of the Normans. This castle was destroyed in the civil wars. In Speed's description of Radnorshire he says, "The fourth place for account is Raihader Gowy, who, besides the great fall of the Wye with a continual noise, hath her markets there kept upon the *Sabbath*, which I there observed, and here note for an offence." It appears that Speed's remark has been attended to, as the markets are now kept on Wednesdays.

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VALLEY OF THE RHEIDDIOL.

looking towards the Devils Bridge

Published as the Act directs by Longman Hurst Rees Orme & Brown

VALLEY OF THE RHEIDDOL,

LOOKING TOWARDS THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE.

THE romantic valley of the Rheiddol abounds in grand and picturesque views. The annexed scene represents the deep chasm, through which the river works its passage, from the rocky height behind the Parson's Bridge. The sides of the mountains enclosing this gloomy valley are of wild and barren character, and nearly destitute of wood, forming a fine contrast with the rich foliage of the woods which clothe the rocky sides of the chasm. The Parson's bridge is nothing more than a slender plank placed across a terrific abyss, connecting two opposite rocks, beneath which the foaming torrent rages with deafening roar. A slight hand-rail on one side is the only safeguard to the unsteady traveller who ventures across this dangerous foot-bridge; and it is named the Parson's bridge from a fatal accident which tradition relates to have befallen a clergyman of one of the neighbouring parishes.

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PONT AR FYNACH,

COMMONLY CALLED THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE.

THIS picturesque bridge is supposed to have been built by the monks of Strata-florida Abbey, about the time of Rufus. It crosses a terrific chasm, at the bottom of which, and 100 feet below the bridge, rolls the Mynach rivulet, or Monk's brook. The Mynach, after passing under the arch, makes a descent of more than 200 feet ina succession of beautiful falls, till it joins the rumbling Rheiddol at the bottom of the deep gloomy valley in front of the Devil's Bridge inn. The bridge consists of two arches, one built over the other; the upper arch having been constructed for greater security, about the year 1750. The gulf through which the Mynach runs is so narrow, and so thickly clothed with wood, that it is only from a very few points that a view of the bridge can be obtained, and then not without great hazard of falling into the abyss.

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FALL OF THE RHEIDDOL,

NEAR THE DEVIL'S BRIDGE.

THE picturesque and romantic valley of the Rheiddol has long been a favourite place of resort with our artists; and it would indeed be difficult to find greater variety of grand scenery, within a narrow limit, than in the vicinity of the Devil's Bridge. The bottom of the valley is choked with huge masses of rock that have fallen from the precipitous sides of the hills which enclose it, and amidst these the rapid and foaming Rheiddol has furrowed an irregular channel, descending by a succession of petty cascades, till it reaches the great fall. This cataract may be seen from the window of the inn at the Devil's Bridge, and, though at a considerable distance, the rumbling noise it occasions is distinctly heard. We approach it, from the Devil's Bridge, by a circuitous path leading down a long succession of zig-zags to the bed of the river. The Rheiddol or Ridol, takes its rise from the mountain of Plimlimmon, and after descending in a southern direction towards the Devil's Bridge, there turns abruptly to the west, and continues nearly a direct course till it falls into the sea at Aberystwith.

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ABERYSTWYTH AND CARDIGAN BAY

Published April [illegible] by the Manx [illegible]

ABERYSTWITH AND CARDIGAN BAY.

ABERYSTWITH derives its name from its situation opposite the mouth of the river Ystwith, where it flows into the Rheiddol. It is a very pleasant bathing place, standing picturesquely on the shores of a beautiful bay, and the surrounding country abounding in fine scenery. The castle is built on a rocky promontory, and forms an interesting feature in this view. The coast to the southward is seen projecting for a great distance, forming the extensive bay of Cardigan, so perilous to navigators in strong western gales.

Few castles have undergone greater vicissitudes than that of Aberystwith, having repeatedly been besieged, destroyed, and rebuilt. It is said to have been the residence of the famed Cadwaladyr. During the revolt of Owain Glandwr it was taken by the Prince of Wales, but was afterwards recaptured and strongly garrisoned by Glandwr.

A mint was set up in Aberystwith by a Mr. Bushel, with license from Charles I. In return for this privilege, Bushel equipt a regiment of his miners at his own expense, besides supplying a loan of £40,000 for the service of the unfortunate monarch. Aberystwith Castle was lastly occupied by the troops of Cromwell. It is now a complete ruin.

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Drawn by Capt. Perry. Engraved by J. Mitchell.

WELSH COAST NEAR ABERYSTWYTH.

Published [illegible]

WELSH COAST,

NEAR ABERYSTWITH.

We have selected this view to give an idea of the general features of the Welsh Coast along the shores of Merioneth and Cardigan. The rocks on the left form the northern boundary to the beautiful little bay of Aberystwith: they are of a peculiar black colour, formed in thin strata, lying with great obliquity to the horizon; and, as their inclination is towards the sea, the waves break over and dash in foamy grandeur against the rugged surface of these rocks. The want of good harbours, and the great number of shoal rocks on this romantic coast, render it extremely dangerous to the coasting trade; few years pass without numerous vessels being lost during the prevailing storms from the west.

It is not uncommon to find beautiful specimens of agate and cornelian on the bright pebbly shore included between these rocks and the promontory on which the ruins of Aberystwith Cartle stand. The search for these pebbles forms one of the chief pastimes of those who resort to this place for the benefit of sea-bathing.

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Drawn by Captn Batty. Engraved by Edwd Finden.

CADER IDRIS.

Published June 1823 by John Murray London

CADER IDRIS.

THE height of this mountain above the level of the sea is said to be 2900 feet. Its craggy summit far out-tops the surrounding mountains of Merionethshire, and its picturesque forms, viewed from the neighbouring country, are strikingly characteristic and grand. Its boldest features are towards the north, on which side there is a small lake, enclosed by a rugged amphitheatre of broken rocks, half encircling it within their precipitous and inaccessible masses. The height of these rocky walls, and their near approach to perpendicularity, give a gloomy aspect to the whole scene, casting broad and deep shadows over the dark waters of the lake, whose circumscribed bounds bear strong resemblance to those of a volcanic crater. The approach to the top of the mountain from Dolgelly, which stands in the valley at its foot, displays at each successive height a variety of enchanting prospects; but all are surpassed by the immense expanse of stupendous scenery which opens to our view on gaining the dizzy summit.

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Drawn by Cuyler Cary. Engraved by W. Miller.

HARLECH.

Published June 1, 1839, by Jno. Murray, London.

HARLECH.

The description given by Speed of this town and its castle conveys a very just idea of its situation and character. "Upon the west and sea-shore of this shire (Merionethshire) Harlech, a market and major towne, standeth, bleake enough and barren, but onely for fowle and fish; houses not many, neither curiously built, wherein standeth a little chappell decayed and without use, in which lyeth buryed Sir Richard Thimblebye, an English knight, who, for the delight he took in that game, removed his abode from a farre better soil. Here also standeth a most strong and beautiful castle, mounted upon a hill, and with a double bulwarke walled about, commanding the sea and passage of entrance of such as seeke to invade the coast. And surely a great pity it is to see so faire a worke fall to decay; the constable whereof is ever by patent the major of this towne: neare unto which are two great inlets of the seas, which at low water may be passed upon the sands with guides."

The annexed view is taken from the south side of the town. The distance is bounded by the mountains of Caernarvonshire, separated from the county of Merioneth by the Traeth-Mawr. The intermediate space between the town and this æstuary is occupied by a long tract of marshy ground, the whole of which has doubtless been formerly covered by the sea.

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HARLECH CASTLE.

HARLECH CASTLE stands on the verge of a bold and precipitous rock at the north-east extremity of Merionethshire. Maclgwyn Gwynedd is said to have founded this castle about the year 530. It was subsequently called Twr Bronwen y Brenhinoedd, after a daughter of Llyr, Prince of Harlech, and one of the turrets is to this day called Bronwen's Tower. Collwyn ab Tangno rebuilt it A.D. 877, and it was then called Caer Collwyn. Most probably the present castle was built by Edward I. about the year 1283. In the year 1440 it was taken by Owain Glandwr in his revolt against Henry IV. but, four years after, was retaken by the king's troops. Margaret of Anjou, after King Henry the Sixth's defeat at Northampton, took refuge in this castle; and in the following reign it was again rendered celebrated by the obstinate defence of David ap Ivan against a besieging force under Richard Herbert, a brother of William Earl of Pembroke, who commanded the royal army. Harlech Castle was the last to hold out for King Charles I.; it was surrendered to General Mytton in 1647.

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VALE OF FESTINIOG.

Published March 1st 1811 by John Murray London

THE VALE OF FFESTINIOG.

FFESTINIOG is situated between the little rivers Dwyrhyd and Cynfael; the valley through which the former of these rivers has its course is justly celebrated for its remarkable picturesque beauty. It should, however, with greater propriety, be called the Vale of Maentwrog, from the situation of that village in the valley. The annexed view is taken from the road between Tan-y-bwlch and Ffestiniog, the whole way exhibiting a variety of the most charming landscapes, combining features of the greatest beauty contrasted with the rugged grandeur of lofty mountains. Not far from Ffestiniog some traces of a Roman camp may be seen, which the Welsh call Tommen y Mur, or the mount within a wall. Within a short distance also are to be seen the waterfalls of the Cynfael, which, though small, are extremely picturesque. We cross the Cynfael by a small Alpine bridge, and, on descending the banks of the river, discover a singular isolated rock, rising, like a column, from the bed of the river; this is called Hugh Lloyd's pulpit, and has its appropriate traditionary legend, known to the neighbouring peasantry.

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VIEW OF LLANGOLLEN & TOWARDS THE IRON BRIDGE, DENBIGHSHIRE.

Pub.d by Jas. Nichols & Son, Parliament Street.

VIEW LOOKING TOWARDS THE PASS OF BEDGELLART.

THIS view is seen from the road which leads along the banks of the Traeth Mawr towards Bedgellart, and is within a short distance of the celebrated salmon-leap, below Pont-aber-Glaslynn. The pass of Bedgellart is one of the wildest and most romantic scenes in Wales, and the views of the grand rocky mountains adjoining it are of the finest character. The appearance of rich meadows close beneath the rugged mountains, where nothing but barren rocks are visible, produces a striking contrast and richly varied colouring; and the transition from the savage grandeur of the Pass, where traces of vegetation are barely discernible, to the beautiful verdure of the open land bordering the Traeth Mawr, is most pleasing and picturesque.

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Drawn by Capt.n Batty. Engraved by Edw.d Finden.

PONT ABER GLASS-LLYNN.

Published June 1, 1823 by John Murray, London.

PONT ABER GLASLLYN.

Pont Aber Glasllynn is built at the mouth of an immense chasm, which separates two huge rocky mountains; the Glasllynn rolls rumbling at the bottom, down a narrow channel, crowded with fragments of rock that have fallen from the impending precipices. It is often called the Devil's Bridge of North Wales, in contra-distinction to Pont y Mynach, the Devil's Bridge of South Wales, near Hafod. After heavy rains, the sides of the mountains are streaked with numerous little cataracts that descend, torn into spray by the rocks over which they fall, and are collected in the abyss below, there forming one impetuous torrent, which nearly chokes up the arch of the bridge, and threatens its destruction. Immediately below the bridge the character of a mountain torrent is lost, the waters subside into a placid stream, famed for its excellent salmon fishery.

The vale of Ffestiniog and the road from thence by Tan-y-Bwlch, over Pont Aber Glasllyn, to Bedgellart, perhaps includes a greater variety of beautiful and sublime scenery than any tract of similar extent throughout Wales.

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Drawn by Capt.n Batty

Engraved by E. Finden

PASS OF MOLLOG,

between Bedgelert & Carnarvon

Published Jan. 1832 by Jas. Mori in London

NANTZ MILL.

The annexed view is taken from the road which leads from Bedgellart to Cærnarvon, looking back in the direction of the former place. Nantz Mill, in itself a remarkably picturesque object, with its adjoining waterfall and bridge, stands at the bottom of a wild valley, environed by the loftiest mountains of North Wales. On the left hand, part of the far-extended base of Snowdon stretches its rocky masses to the verge of the rivulet, which descends from the opposite mountain, and passes the mill in its course towards the mouth of the vale. The grandeur of the contiguous mountains is often heightened by heavy clouds overhanging their summits, leaving the imagination to picture ideal heights far exceeding their real altitudes.

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Drawn by [illegible] Esq.

Engraved by [illegible] Finden.

SNOWDON, FROM LLANDERIS.

[illegible]

SNOWDON,

FROM LLANBERRIS.

LLANBERRIS is a wretched little village situated near the margin of a lake at the foot of Snowdon, and at about ten miles distance from Caernarvon. Its name, and that of the contiguous lake, is derived from St. Peris, to whom the village church is dedicated. From a rocky eminence near the village we have a stupendous view of Snowdon, rising, in a succession of rocky precipices, from the margin of the lake. The perpendicular height of Snowden has been calculated at 3751 feet. The lake of Llanberris, or Llyn-Peris, is about one mile in length; it unites, at its outlet, with Dolbadern lake by a very narrow channel. Speed, in his account of Caernarvonshire, observes, "that in the Poole Lin-Peris, there is a kinde of fish called there torcoch, having a red belly, no where else seene." This is no other than the char-fish, which is found in abundance in the lakes of Cumberland and Westmoreland.

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Drawn by Joseph Leary

Engraved by E. Finden

MOLRANAN CASTLE

Published June 1816 by Colnaghi Morris & Co London.

DOLBADERN CASTLE.

No certain record is extant for fixing the date when this castle was built. Only one tower remains, standing on a high rocky eminence near the channel which communicates between Llyn Peris and Llyn Dôlbadarn. The position of this castle commanding the pass in the mountains, must have been of great importance in the frequent broils which disturbed this country. Leland says, that Owain Goch, brother of Llewelyn, last Prince of Wales, was imprisoned in this tower twenty years.

The situation of Castell Dôlbadarn is strikingly romantic and picturesque, being surrounded by an amphitheatre of immense mountains of the wildest and most rugged character.

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CAERNARVONSHIRE. LLANBERIS, FROM THE ROAD TO CAERNARVON.

Published [illegible]

SNOWDON AND LLANBERRIS,

FROM THE ROAD TO CAERNARVON.

THE first part of the road from Caernarvon is low and uninteresting; but, as we approach the vicinity of Dolbadarn Lake, the scene developes itself in broader and more majestic grandeur at every step. Snowdon, or, as the Welsh term its summit, Y Wyddfa, rises conspicuously above the surrounding mountains below; on the left, the lakes of Llanberris and Dolbadarn are seen; these are bounded by the steeps of Llyder Vawr. Dolbadarn Castle appears quite diminutive in the midst of this stupendous scenery. It requires a very favourable state of the weather to obtain a clear view of the whole summit of Snowdon, and at the same time to have sufficient clouds to cast broad shadows, by which we may distinguish the different forms of the mountains. In a perfectly clear day the outline is harsh, and the effects far inferior in beauty and grandeur to those seen either through the aerial tints of early morning, or the broad contrasts of light and shade in cloudy weather.

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Drawn by Capt. Batty

Engraved by Edwd. Finden

CARNARVON CASTLE

Publish'd March 1st 1826 by Mess. Jennings, London

CAERNARVON CASTLE.

CAERNARVON, or Caer-yn-Arfon, Castle was built by King Edward I. near the spot were the Roman Segontium formerly stood. It is situated near the entrance to the Menai Strait, upon the banks of the little river Seiont, and in its vicinity we are still shown some ruins evidently of Roman construction.

Speed says, " this citie Ninnius calleth Caer-Custenith, which some interpret the citie of Constantine. Indeed Matthew Westminster saith (how true I know not) that anno 1283 here was found the body of Constantius (father to the great Constantine) which King Edward the First caused to be sumptuously interred in the church of the new citie, which he raised out of the ruins of the old, and is now called Caernarvon, which giveth name to the whole shire."

Caernarvon Castle was besieged by the parliamentary troops under General Mytton, and on the 2d of June, 1646, was surrendered to him on most honourable terms by Lord Byron, the governor. Mytton was afterwards besieged in the castle by Sir John Owen, who, in attempting to prevent succours reaching the castle, was himself taken prisoner; after this the whole of North Wales submitted to the parliament.

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Drawn by Capt.n Batty. Engraved by Edw.d Finden.

EAGLE TOWER, CAERNARVON CASTLE.

Pub.d 1.st Jan.y 1823 by John Murray, London

EAGLE TOWER, CAERNARVON CASTLE.

SPEED, in describing Caernarvon, remarks, that "The townsmen doe not a little glory that King Edward the Second was born there, in a tower of the Castle called Eagle Tower, and surnamed of Caer-nar-von, he being the first Prince of Wales of the English line."

When King Edward I. found the Welsh determined on being governed by a Prince of their own nation, he assembled the barons and chief persons in Wales in Rhudland Castle, and obtained their promise of submission on condition of his giving them a prince born in Wales, who could not speak English, and whose life was irreproachable: he then named his Son Edward, who was just before born in Caernarvon Castle (anno 1284).

The Eagle Tower is so named from the rude representations of eagles which surmount the small turrets over the great tower of the castle contiguous to the Menai Strait.

Though this castle has suffered considerable dilapidations, it is still a noble ruin. The ruinous state into which it has been suffered to fall, calls forth the regret of Speed, who adds: "Great pitie it is, that so famous a work should not be perpetuous, or ever become the ruine of time which is much feared, for the merciless underminings of the sea, that with her daily and forcible irruptions never ceaseth to wash away the foundations of the key."

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Drawn by Capt. Lory Engraved by Edwd Finden

WATERFALL AT ABER.

In the road from Bangor to Penman-Mawr and Conway, we pass the little village of Aber, pleasantly situated on the slope of the mountains, a short distance from the sea. Aber stands contiguous to a torrent, which in its descent from the mountains forms a grand cataract at about a mile's distance before it reaches the village. We approach the fall by ascending the banks of the rivulet to the foot of the precipitous side of the mountain. The first view we obtain of it exhibits the stream descending down a narrow cleft in the barren face of the rock; want of wood and of variety in the form of the ground renders this view extremely sterile and dreary. When we arrive at the foot of the cataract, however, it is seen to great advantage; the rocky sides of the cleft, down which it falls with deafening roar, have been fairly scooped out by the incessant action of the torrent, which dashes, in foamy grandeur, into a basin at the bottom.

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Drawn by Capt. Batty

Engraved by [illegible]

CONWAY CASTLE,

from the Bank of the Conway, below the Town.

[illegible]

CONWAY CASTLE,

FROM THE BANKS OF CONWAY BELOW THE TOWN.

THE annexed view is taken just without the walls of the town, and shows the appearance of the castle when we look up the river. It is backed by a richly wooded hill, on the skirts of which are many beautiful views of the castle, town of Aberconway, and the surrounding country. The town of Aberconway is enclosed by walls and towers, which nearly form a triangle. The apex of this triangle is on the highest point of ground, and farthest from the river; its base is formed by the walls skirting the stream; and on a bold rock, at the southern extremity of the base, stands the nearly insulated castle. Hither Richard the Second fled from Ireland in the year 1399, and agreed with the Earl of Northumberland and the Archbishop of Canterbury to give up his crown to the Duke of Lancaster: from this circumstance arose the civil wars which desolated the country for so long a period.

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Engraved by Edw[illegible] Finden

[illegible]

Published [illegible] by J. Murray, London

CONWAY CASTLE,

FROM THE WOOD OPPOSITE.

CONWAY castle was built in the year 1284, by King Edward the First, to check the frequent revolts of the Welsh. It stands upon a rock, at the south-east extremity of the town of Aberconway, and at high water is nearly surrounded by the river Conway. The walls of the castle are of enormous thickness, and are defended by eight massy round towers: the entrance is, besides, protected by a strong outwork, flanked by small round towers, with a deep moat in front. The great hall of the castle measures 130 feet in length, and 32 in width. The king's chamber, as it is called, occupies one of the circular towers contiguous to the river, and it is lighted by a very neat Gothic window, which seems almost the only part of the castle where any degree of ornament has been attempted.

This view is taken from the wood fronting the south side of the castle, and commanding a beautiful prospect of the river to its mouth: the distance is terminated by the promontory of Great Ormes Head, called by the Welsh Gogarth.

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Drawn by Capt.n Batty. Engraved by Edw.d Finden

LLANDOVERY CASTLE.

Published by Fisher, Son & Co. Paris, London.

RYDDLAN, RHUDLAND, OR RUDLAND CASTLE.

According to Leland, the name of this castle, "Rhethlan, communely caullid Rudelan, cummith of Rethe, that ys to say, roone color, or pale redde, and glan, that is shore; but G when glan is set with a word preceeding G is explodid." It was built, says Camden, by Llewellin ap Sitshilt, Prince of Wales. Harold burned it down to revenge the damage which the Welsh did in their predatory incursions into England. It was taken in the year 1098 by Robert de Rhudland. Edward the First fortified it before his campaign against the Welsh under Llewellyn. The latter, in conjunction with his brother David, laid siege to this castle during the king's absence in 1281; but Edward arrived in time to succour the garrison, and in 1283 his queen Eleanor gave birth to a princess in the castle. A curious account is given in Dugdale's Baronage of Ranulph, the last Earl of Chester, being besieged in Rhuydland Castle, and of the Welsh being put to flight by a disorderly rabble assembled by the minstrels in Chester, and led by Hugh de Dutton, steward to Lacey, constable of Chester. The site of Rhuydland is celebrated for a great battle fought between the Saxons and Welsh in the year 794 or 795, in which Caradoc, king of North Wales, Offa, king of Mercia, and M'redydh, king of Dyved, were all slain. A parliament was held here 1283, when the statute of Rhudland was enacted.

The castle was dismantled by order of the parliament in 1646.

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Drawn by Jos.h Patty — Engraved by Edw.d Finden

PENRIGH.

Published by Longman & Co. Moses London.

DENBIGH.

The situation of Denbigh is extremely delightful, being built on an eminence commanding extensive and beautiful views of the charming vale of Cluyd. From some points Denbigh has the appearance of an Italian town crowning the summit of the hill, with its picturesque ruins rising conspicuously above the surrounding buildings. Speed says, "The fame of this towne spreads itselfe farre for repute, as being reckoned the most beautiful place in all North-Wales: and it is of no lesse report, for the castle adjunct unto it is impregnable for fortification." Although the neighbourhood of Denbigh does not present us with the characteristics of the sublime and romantic, so frequently met with in the scenery of Wales, it amply supplies their deficiency by the extreme beauty and richness of the views.

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Drawn by Captn Batty. Engraved by Edwd Finden.

GATEWAY OF DENBIGH CASTLE.

Published May 1[illegible] by John Murray, London

GATEWAY OF DENBIGH CASTLE.

DENBIGH was fortified by Henry, Earl of Lincoln, who obtained it, with the surrounding county, by a grant from Edward the First, after its former possessor, Daffydd ap Gruffydd, brother of Llywelyn, was beheaded in 1283. The castle stood on the south side of the city, and the fine ruins, which still attract attention, show that it must have been a noble work. Leland says, "The Gatehouse is a marvellous strong and great piece of work; but the fastigia of it were never finished." It is said that the earl's son fell into the castle well and was drowned, and that he, as Speed relates, "conceiving grief (as a sorrowful father), gave it over, and left the work unfinished." It went through a variety of masters till it became the property of the house of York. In 1646 it was besieged by the troops of the Parliament under General Mytton, and held out against them from the 16th of July to the 3d of November, when it was surrendered on honourable terms. After the restoration of Charles the Second, the fortifications were blown up.

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LLANGOLLEN.

LLANGOLLEN.

The situation of Llangollen is remarkably pleasing, being built on the banks of the "Deva's wizard stream." Its church is dedicated to St. Collen, and forms a very picturesque object in the scene before us. The Dee winds beautifully through the Vale of Llangollen, rolling along with a delightful murmur as it is broken into a succession of little cascades by its rocky bed. The banks of the river are richly wooded, and above rise chains of mountains bounding the horizon. Opposite to the town is a remarkable conical mountain, crowned by the ruins of a castle called Castell Dinas Bran. This castle is one of the oldest Welsh fortresses, and no record remains of its founder. Gryffydd ap Madog, who treacherously sided with the English against his countrymen, in the reign of Henry III., was obliged to take refuge in this castle from the vengeance of the Welsh, who kept him closely blockaded for a considerable time.

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Drawn by Captn Batty — Engraved by Edwd Finden.

VIEW ON THE NIGER, FROM MILANGO COLLIERY ISLAND.

Published April 1st, 1837, by Murray, London.

VIEW ON THE DEE,

FROM LLANGOLLEN BRIDGE.

THIS is one of the numerous pleasing views in which the neighbourhood of the delightfully situated town of Llangollen abounds. The scene is backed by a fine mountain partially wooded, and at its foot rolls the Dee in streams broken by masses of rock. The extreme beauty of the vicinity of Llangollen has caused it to be selected by two ladies of rank, who have retired hither from the busy scene of the world, and certainly no place could be better adapted for the quiet enjoyment of rural life than their delightfully secluded villa.

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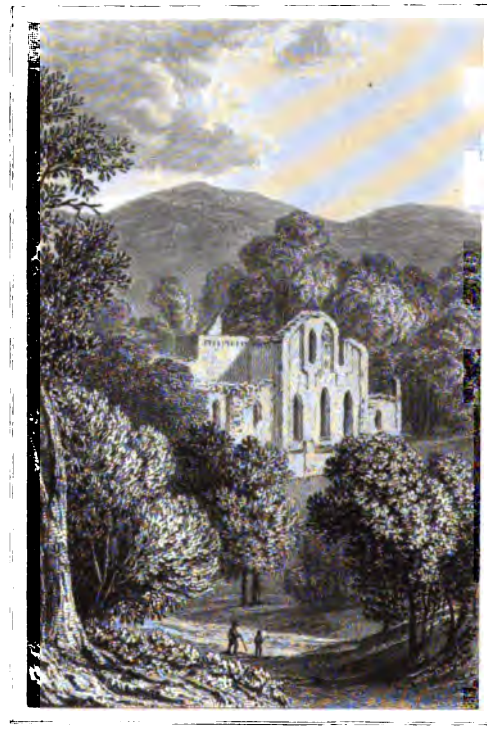

Drawn by Capt.n Batty — Engraved by Edw.d Finden

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.

Published Mar 1 1828 by Fisher Son & Co London.

LLANEGWAST,

OR

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.

WEST SIDE.

THE annexed view is taken from the broad meadow fronting the great west entrance to the abbey, which stands picturesquely in a narrow valley, beautifully varied with wood. Although this is not the most ancient part of the building, it is not less interesting from the style of its architecture. Over the entrance door is a large Gothic window divided by light stone pillars, and above this is a small, circular, radiated window. Over all is an inscription commemorating the person at whose expense the edifice was restored: "an honour," as Pennant observes, "frequently paid to benefactors of this kind."

The distance of Valle Crucis Abbey from Llangollen is less than two miles, and the whole road leads through the most delightful scenery imaginable. The monks certainly have shewn great taste in their choice of situations for retirement, and that of the site of this beautiful ruin is one of the most striking.

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Drawn by Capt.n Batty — Engraved by Edw.d Finden

LLANEGWAST, OR VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.

West Side

Published May 1.st 1829 by Longman Rees Orme Brown & Green London.

VALLE CRUCIS ABBEY.

LLAN EGWAST, or De Valle Crucis Abbey, was founded by Madoc ap Gryffydd Maelor, A.D. 1200 It was built in the form of a cross, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and occupied by monks of the Cistertian Order. From the different styles of architecture which are discernible, it is probable that it was built at different periods, or that some portion has been rebuilt. The annexed view is of the east end, which appears to be the oldest portion, and is remarkable for long and narrow windows. Grose, in his Antiquities, gives the following ingenious interpretation of an inscription still legible on the west end of the church, over the great window.

"The characters are Maso-Gothic and Franco-Theotiscan mixed.

MD H OO HRBMSPOE ac h ⊙ a PO u S ÷ PRO BHQV OES CM GR QO.

"The first letters I take to be MAD, or Madocus, H hoc, OO monasterium, HR honori, B beatæ, M Mariæ, S sanctæ, P pœnitens, Œ ædificavit, ac et, h ⊙ hoc, a P appropriavit, O u S opus, PRO pro, B bono, HQV hospitioq, OES ejusdem, CM centum Marcas, GR gratis, Q quoque, O ordinavit.

"In English, 'Madoc, a penitent, erected this monastery to the honour of the Blessed and Holy Virgin; and appropriated for this work, and for the better maintenance thereof, an hundred marks, which he freely settled on them."

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Drawn by Capt. Parry

Engraved by T. Fin[illegible]

AQUEDUCT OVER THE RIVER CALLED [illegible] NT Y CROWLIGAU.

[illegible]

AQUEDUCT OVER THE DEE,

CALLED PONT-Y-CYSSYLTAN.

The foundation stone of this noble work was laid on the 25th of July, 1795. It conveys the water of the Ellesmere canal across the deep and broad valley of the Dee, and forms a junction between that river, the Severn, and the Mersey. The canal extends along the whole length of the beautiful vale of Llangollen to the Oernant slate quarries.

The aqueduct is constructed of plates of cast iron, supported on stone piers; those standing in the bed of the Dee are of amazing height. The extreme narrowness of the aqueduct, the height of some of its piers, and the great number of arches, give it altogether a very light and elegant character. Its width is only just sufficient to allow the passage of a very narrow canal-boat, and a sideway, guarded by a light iron railing, for the trackers. The canal boats are long, and are made of plates of sheet iron riveted together: they occupy less space, and are much more durable than wooden boats. The annexed view is looking up the valley of the Dee from its eastern bank: a bridge over the river may be seen through the arches of the aqueduct. The whole scene, bounded by the mountains of Llangollen, forms one of the most pleasing landscapes that can be met with.

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Drawn by Hugh Barry Engraved by Joseph Jones

WREXHAM

Published by J. Jones, Wrexham, Denbigh

WREXHAM.

WREXHAM is a small but tolerably well-built town, situated in Denbighshire, almost close to the borders of Cheshire. The surrounding country is very fertile, and beautifully varied with hill and dale, wood and water. It was called by the Saxons Wrightelesham. Wrexham may boast of one of the finest churches in the united kingdom: it was built in the reign of Henry VII. and is remarkable for the florid Gothic style of its architecture. The tower is extremely handsome, and is nearly 140 feet high, having its angles surmounted by pinnacles of highly-wrought open work. Numerous statues ornament the buttresses, and give great richness to the picturesque appearance of the church. The roof is of oak, beautifully constructed, and richly carved. This church possesses many curious and interesting monuments; one by Roubilliac. There is also preserved here a Saxon monument with an inscription on it.

FEB 24 1933